

and northwestern part of the county are vast reaches of black spruce forests, now in such demand for wood pulp of which the paper is made of post cards, books, and newspapers. There remains much oak, cherry, poplar, chestnut and the more common forest trees in marked profusion.

The entire county from end to end east of the Greenbrier abounds in iron ore indications, principally the brown hematite and the reddish sideriferous.

(Above from Historic Markers -

MIGRATION OF PEOPLE

In reference to the ancestry of the people of Pocahontas County, it may be inferred that the citizenship is of a composite character, German, English, Irish, Scotch, and French.

Such names as there, Lightner, Harper, Yeager, Arbogast, Herold, Hatterman, Burr, Siple, Sheets, Casebolt, Shrader, Burner, Sydenstricker, Varner, Heverner, Oakley, Gumm, Overholt, indicate German descent, etc.

Indians: There are evidences that the Indians once roamed through the thick forests of what is now our beautiful section of country. Pieces of flint have been found by our citizens which were no doubt used by the Red Race. There was an Indian burial ground on a flat above the road a short distance up the valley from I. B. Moore's dwelling. Indications were to the older people that several Indians had been buried here. It has been said that a few relics were found in later years when some excavations were made.

CRANBERRY GLADES

An intriguing bit of back Country in the Old Mountains of West Virginia which recently has been included in the Monongahela National Forest:

"Here is the botanist's paradise. Here among these mountains are found the "Cranberry Glades," a strangely misplaced tract of arctic tundra in the southern mountains. Here you will find a bewildering array of alders, shrubs, grasses and vines, a never-ending source of delight are the two thousand varieties of orchids, which bloom in colorful contrast upon the metallic sheen of the

moss carpet covering the Glades, West Virginia is the native home of more than sixteen hundred flowering plants.

(Above from Historic Markers - State Library.)

RELIGION

The first Prebyterian Church ever organized within the county was known as the Oak Grove Church in this district in 1793. For thirty-seven years it did not have a pastor, the only preaching being done by ministers who occasionally visited this section. It is believed that the first minister to be located here was Rev. John McCue.

In 1830 this church was organized by Rev. S. L. Graham, and at the time had but nine members, including for deacons, who were Josiah Beard, George Pooge, John Jordan, and S. D. Poage. Rev. Graham continued to be the pastor for 39 years, when he was succeeded by Rev. J. S. Blaine.

In 1833 Mt. Zion Church in "The Hells" was built. It is a log structure, but has been materially repaired and is still used for a house of worship. Previous to the erection of Mt. Vernon Church the people of Upper Knapps Creek attended services at Mt. Zion. Many of them went on horse back across the country by way of the Mill Run at I. B. Moore's.

Mt. Vernon Church was erected in 1856. A noticeable feature of this building is the good quality of the lumber used. Scarcely a defectiv~~ex~~ spot can be seen in the ceiling. John McElwee and son did the carpenter work. All the lumber was planed by hand at the shop on the land owned by Moses Moore who was a noted Christian character.

Trinity M. E. Church at Frost was dedicated in 1898. The opening prayer was offered by Rev. Wm. T. Price of Marlinton. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Neice, of Monroe County. His text was taken from Galations the sixth chapter and second verse: "Bear ye one another burderns and so fulfill the law of Christ." Rev. George Spencer was the pastor in charge of the circuit. Other ministers present were Wm. and B. B. Sharp, both of Frost.

New Hope Lutheran Church at Minnehaha was built in 1893 through the efforts of Henry White, Sr., and his family who came to Douthard's Creek in 1876. Before building the church they had occasional services by Lutheran pastors in their homes, in nearby churches, and in school houses.

The Westminister Prebyterian Church was building in 1903 and Rev. G. W. Nickell was pastor. In 1923 the first county convention to be held in Huntersville convened here

Mr. Carmel M. E. Church, South, was dedicated October 1, 1905.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church was organized in the year 1793. The early records of the church were lost and no one remembers when it was built. A substantial brick structure in this sect worshipped for many years was later built southeast of Hillsboro, where the cemetery is still kept up. In 1830 the Church was reorganized.

Posahontas
Chapter 3

Jan 370 #

Dec 21 - March 22
slip
"went to hole" for
pages

One day last week the Shaws, Vanderenders, Wares and others killed the big sheep eating bear which has been coming off of Shavers Cheat and killing sheep on Elk. They got him on Mill Run of Slaty Fork mountain. His weight was 370 pounds, and fat as a fool; the fat on his rump cut full four inches. This was a big footed bear; the measurements of his paw thirteen inches long by eight broad. It was seen where this bear had killed and dragged three or four head of Norman Shaw's sheep into the woods. Following up, wonder of wonders, a hunter came upon the bear at his feast. The bear raised to his hind legs and the man took a shot with a small bore rifle. Later it was ascertained the bullet plumbed the brisket. It apparently did little damage for the bear made off. The dogs then were put after him, but he paid the dogs little mind other than to run. He went by a stander who put him down and out with a bullet from a high power rifle.

The next day Fred Galford brought his bear dogs to put on the tracks. However, they do say those bear fighting dogs evidenced but little interest. Mr Galford followed on but the snow had melted too fast.

A distinguished friend writes in from the city to say that my load had gotten too great to bear in my unequal contest with this wolf and panther business and that he was liable to have a friend of his send me a wolf dog. I can only reply that truth is still mighty and will eventually prevail. Also that I place a wolf dog along side of a stable horse and sawmill as a thing undesirable, but for the good of and protection of the country as a whole I would be much obliged for a wolf dog.

Lanty Sharp came off Jericho Road the other day with a tale about a big brown heron like bird with a wide stretch of wing and a voice like the croak of a raven. He said it was working strong on the little piping frogs in the Glade. I knew right off he was talking about a bittern, or brown heron.

Last Wednesday morning if you had happened to look close at the river there was a big flock of wild ducks making their living between the bridge and the mouth of Price Run. There were fifty or more of the little dickens, and they appeared to be having the best time. I presume they were feeding on the superabundance of perrywinkles or fresh water snail which now cover the rocks in this part of Greenbrier River. This black and white (males) wild duck has the local name of butter duck. The books list it as buffie head.

Along about dark and after if you will listen along these low grounds of Knapps Creek and Greenbrier River, you will hear an unseen bird say scape as it flies over. It is a woodcock talking to you. The other evening I was lucky and saw a full dozen against the sky as they flew over me. I heard others which I could not see.

Wm. Origger was in town from the Beaver Lick fire tower when it rained last Thursday morning, and told a satisfying experience he had enjoyed in his look out the other morning. As he walked up the trail from home he noticed a lot of fresh deer sign, but saw nothing. After he had gotten settled in the tower and all was quiet, an old cock grouse burst out a drumming right below him; just over the ridge in a drain an old wild turkey had to answer with low gobbling. This was the sign for two deer which had bidden when the man approached that they could safely move out, and one made off in one direction and the other went another. All of which goes to prove that a body does not see

everything to be seen when he walks through the woods.

This was a bear in his prime. He has been a persistent sheep killer for several years. He made his home in Shavers Cheat, and would come down to Tygarts Valley and the Elk regularly for his mutton. He was known by the unusual size of his track. Ever since this bear came out of his winter's sleep a month ago he has been killing sheep. There is at least one more sheep stealing bear on Elk. This one comes out of Gauley, leaves smaller tracks, and has been killing this spring, mostly on Crooked and Old Field Fork of Elk.

Don't be fooled by the fancy put down by popular writers that bears come out lean and poor from their long winter's sleep and fast. That bear killed on Elk last week cut two inches of fat on his ribs. Even though he never went hungry from eating sheep, this is a poor time of year to fatten a beast, and a month is a short time to do it in. That bear went to hole fat December 21 and he came out fat on March 22.

Word comes that the tracks of the old she wolf were seen in the snow last week in the pine patch on Middle Mountain of Elk. The snow was off the hillside and she could not be tracked. They are now guessing she has a den somewhere with pups in it.

The other Sunday night Mrs Green and children of Woodrow, were followed home by a panther. They thought they heard something following them but supposed it was a neighbor's dog, and they paid no mind. Just as they were going into their house, William VanKreusen drove by in his automobile, and the lights of his car plainly showed the great cat crouched by the roadside. The varment gave a great leap as it made off toward the forest, and it was plainly seen as it crossed the road in the light by Mr Green, who was on the porch.